

Appl. No. 09/838,502
Atty. Docket No. 8053MX
Amdt. dated 05/15/2003
Reply to Office Action of 5/08/2002

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the lanthanide ion. Basis is at original Claim 6, now cancelled as redundant. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite the fabric softening agent, pursuant to the required election of species. Claim 8 has therefore been cancelled without prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue the other species listed in one or more appropriate Divisional Applications. Claim 7 has been amended to depend from Claim 1. New Claim 44 has been added to recite a Markush group of fabric softening agents, and properly depends from Claim 1. Basis for the listing of softening agents is found at pages 44-45 of the specification. It is submitted that there is full support for these amendments and entry is requested.

Claims 1, 7, 9 and 44 are now in the case.

For the record, there are no rejections under 35 USC §103 or §112 outstanding.

Rejection Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-7 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. 3,885,020.

Claims 1-3 and 7 stand rejected as being anticipated by GB 1,475,971.

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. 3,544,363.

Claims 1, 2 and 9 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. 5,948,122.

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. 4,615,707.

Applicant respectfully traverses all rejections, to the extent they may apply to the claims as amended herewith.

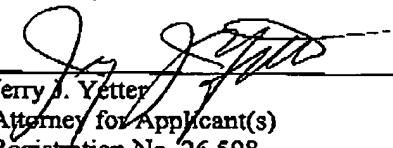
The claims as presently amended require the presence of both the lanthanide and the softening agent. Since no single reference teaches such combination of ingredients, the references do not anticipate the invention, as now claimed, under 35 USC 102. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections are requested.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable action on Claims 1, 7, 9 and 44 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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